

In the Claims:

This listing will replace all prior versions and listing of claims in the subject application.

1-20 (Canceled)

- 1 21. (Currently Amended) A non-woven material comprising a fiber that includes a modified poly(ethylene oxide), wherein the modified poly(ethylene oxide) is modified by grafting a polar vinyl monomer to a poly(ethylene oxide) having an initial molecular weight within the range of about 50,000 g/mol to about 350,000 g/mol before grafting of the polar vinyl monomer.
- 2 22. (Previously Presented) The non-woven material of Claim 21¹, wherein the ~~poly(ethylene oxide) is capable of being melt-spun into fibers~~ the fiber is melt spun.
- 3 23. (Previously Presented) The non-woven material of Claim 22², wherein the poly(ethylene oxide) has an apparent viscosity of less than 200 Pascal*seconds at shear rates of not less than 100 second⁻¹ and not greater than 1,000 second⁻¹.
- 4 24. (Previously Presented) The non-woven of Claim 22², wherein the non-woven consists essentially of poly(ethylene oxide).
- 7 25. (Previously Presented) A non-woven comprising a fiber that includes a graft copolymer of a poly(ethylene oxide) having an initial molecular weight within the range of about 50,000 g/mol to about 250,000 g/mol and a polar vinyl monomer.
- 8 26. (Previously Presented) The non-woven of Claim 25⁷, wherein the modified poly(ethylene oxide) is modified from a poly(ethylene oxide) having an initial molecular

weight before modification within the range of about 50,000 g/mol to about 100,000 g/mol.

- 9 ~~27~~. (Previously Presented) The non-woven material of Claim ~~25~~⁷, wherein the modified poly(ethylene oxide) is modified by the addition of an initiator.
- 10 ~~28~~. (Previously Presented) The non-woven material of Claim ~~25~~⁷, wherein the polar vinyl monomer is selected from the group consisting of poly(ethylene glycol) methacrylates and 2-hydroxyethyl methacrylate.
- 12 ~~29~~. (Previously Presented) A non-woven comprising a fiber that includes a graft copolymer of a poly(ethylene oxide) having an initial molecular weight within the range of about 50,000 g/mol to about 250,000 g/mol and a polar vinyl monomer;
wherein the polar vinyl monomer is a poly(ethylene glycol) ethyl ether methacrylate and has an average molecular weight of not greater than about 5,000 grams per mol.
- 11 ~~30~~. (Previously Presented) The non-woven material of Claim ~~25~~⁷, wherein the polar vinyl monomer is added within the range of about 0.1 to about 20 weight percent relative to the weight of the poly(ethylene oxide).
- 13 ~~31~~. (Previously Presented) A non-woven comprising a fiber that includes a graft copolymer of a poly(ethylene oxide) having an initial molecular weight within the range of about 50,000 g/mol to about 250,000 g/mol and a polar vinyl monomer;
wherein the polar vinyl monomer is a poly(ethylene glycol) ethyl ether methacrylate.
- 32.- 35. (Canceled)

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5 36. (Previously Presented) The non-woven material of Claim 21¹, wherein the non-woven material is produced by a spun-bond process.

6 37. (Previously Presented) The non-woven material of Claim 22², wherein the non-woven material is produced by a melt-blown process.